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Book Reviews.

A Study of Christian Missions. By WILLIAM NEWTON CLARKE, D.D. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1900. Pp. 268. \$1.25

Two Thousand Years of Missions before Carey. By LEMUEL CALL BARNES. Chicago: The Christian Culture Press, 1900. Pp. xvii + 504. \$1.50.

A History of American Baptist Missions. By EDMUND F. MERRIAM, Editor of the *Baptist Missionary Magazine*. Philadelphia: American Baptist Publication Society, 1900. Pp. xxix + 261. \$1.25.

In *A Study of Christian Missions* Dr. Clarke has given us a book which is without a rival. It supplies splendidly the need long felt by a multitude of pastors and other Christian workers for a sober and comprehensive treatment of the principles and problems of missions. The work is rightly termed a study. It bristles with problems presented for consideration—not always for immediate solution. Arguments for favorite views are conspicuous by their absence. The book might well be called “A Critical Introduction to the Science of Christian Missions.”

An adequate survey of the entire eleven chapters would be impracticable here. To notice some of the features of most value or interest must suffice.

Having remarked the missionary character of Christianity, the author discusses the missionary motive. This motive appears in three aspects, answering to the three parties concerned. We are summoned by God in Christ to join him in doing the work nearest his heart; we are impelled to impart the good gift to others which Christ has bestowed on us; the world urgently needs the gift. Loyalty to God, love to men, and the world's need are the constraining motives. Motives that were primary a century ago are now discounted by new views of the condition of the heathen world. Yet the motives on which the emphasis is now laid are such as to command and require hearty effort in mission work. It is God's work, and one who will not join in it simply does not stand with God.

A most valuable chapter is that on “The Present Crisis in Missions.”

Reaction from the era of romance; the new learning; the influence of the doctrine of evolution; the transitions in church life; the revival of the war spirit—these are the conditions which have aided in producing the present crisis and pause in mission work. To meet this crisis are certain peculiar needs: the requickening of a simple faith in the living God and Savior; the establishing of the missionary motive as a fundamental, vital thought of the new age; the simplifying of the Christian message; and the espousal by the Christian people of the missionary enterprise in sober and serious devotion to a long and arduous task.

The outlook we cannot forecast, nor do we need. The work is God's work, and it will be what he calls successful. It is certain to be long, and the success of it is certain to be great. There is enough of outlook to cheer us perpetually, and enough to humble us, and enough to urge us on to our best endeavors. The end is with God, whom we can trust; and with this we must be content.

Such are the salient features of the book. The effort has been made to present here as closely as possible the author's own views. To some of those views exception must be taken by many earnest friends of Christ and missions. It cannot be granted, for instance, that the older motive which emphasized the fact that the heathen are *lost* has lost its power to the extent suggested by Dr. Clarke. So long as it is believed that "the Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost," so long will it be believed that the desire to save the heathen from eternal death is a worthy and inspiring motive to missionary undertakings. The contrast between the older views of the missionary enterprise and the newer has been rather too sharply drawn, *e. g.*: "Missions were begun when it was believed that all who had never heard of Christ were passing, from the moment of their death, to an absolutely hopeless doom." This hardly expresses the universal belief of Protestant Christendom at any time in its history.

One may express mild surprise at the author's candid admission that the present influence of "modern thought" is to weaken faith in God and devotion to the missionary enterprise: "One great effect of the conditions that have made the crisis is the widespread weakening of direct and simple confidence in the living God who is Savior to mankind." "The general effect of the transformations of the passing time has been to diminish rather than to increase the sense of God, with a great part of the Christian people who need it for their work." (Pp. 198, 199.)

However much one may differ with the author in some of his positions, he has given us a delightful and helpful book worthy of a place on every pastor's table and in the library of every Christian worker.

Very different in its purpose and method of treatment from Dr. Clarke's book, the work of Pastor Barnes likewise meets a need not hitherto filled. Prepared as a text-book in the Advanced Christian Culture Course, it is, in fact, a complete handbook of the history of missions to the time of Carey. The author has undertaken, and with evident success, to show that the long period embracing the rise and development of Latin Christianity was not void of the true Christ spirit—the missionary spirit. Defective and decadent though mediæval Christianity certainly was, yet there were men whose hearts yearned to share their poor shadow of a Christ with the heathen who had no Christ at all. The mixed motives which often controlled the missionary undertakings fostered or sanctioned by the Romanists, together with the vitiated character of the gospel they proclaimed, are a partial excuse for Protestant writers who have ignored these endeavors. Dr. Barnes has drawn largely on the sources for the true history of these enterprises, and presents them in the spirit of an unprejudiced chronicler and historian. The preface declares that "the present work is an endeavor to treat all missions of all denominations before the era of Carey with critical but perfectly friendly fairness." A feature of the book is a liberal use of original sources, from which quotations appear on almost every page, while at the same time a popular and non-technical style is maintained.

It is unreasonable to expect a work covering so large a field of inquiry to be utterly free of errors, *e. g.*, the statement (p. 26) that the LXX "was the foundation of the Latin Vulgate and so of our own King James' version" (a twofold error).

A chronological table, graphic map chronology, full index, and select topical bibliography combine to render this one of the most valuable and usable books in mission literature.

The editorial secretary of the Missionary Union has addressed himself to a very difficult task in attempting to compress into 60,000 words eighty-eight years of Baptist missionary history. The result is an able and concise statement of the salient features of the history, which supplies a need existing for a generation. The book is intended to supplement the "Baptist History Series" recently published by the Publication Society, and is a valuable addition thereto. The history

and work of the Missionary Union and of the Southern Baptist Convention are reviewed briefly, and the peculiarly brilliant triumphs of divine grace in their mission fields are considered more in detail. A brief appendix considers Baptist missions of the British empire. The brevity of the volume is to be deplored. At every page one wishes to know more. The history of American Baptist missions is deserving of a fuller and more circumstantial treatment. It is to be hoped that Dr. Merriam may have the opportunity and inclination to write (before 1914 at the latest) a history of such a character as those of Mr. Lovett, of the London Missionary Society, and Mr. Stock, of the Church Missionary Society.

The author quotes a strange error from Benedict estimating the Baptists in 1812 as "one-fifth of the population of the whole country." As a matter of fact, they were about one forty-fifth of the whole population.

The book is not free from occasional lapses in style and typographical errors. A series of outline maps of mission fields would add much to its utility.

GEORGE E. BURLINGAME.

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A History of Babylonia and Assyria. By ROBERT WILLIAM ROGERS, PH.D., D.D., Professor in Drew Theological Seminary. Two volumes. New York: Eaton & Mains, 1900. Pp. xx+429; xv+418. \$5.

These two portly volumes bespeak enthusiasm, energy, and industry. They are the first attempt on so large a scale to present a popular history of Babylonia-Assyria. The comprehensive work of Professor McCurdy, *History, Prophecy and the Monuments*, is rather more than semi-technical; it approaches the technical; and the works of Professor Sayce cover specific themes that fall into the Babylonian-Assyrian field. Professor Rogers has pursued this subject with enthusiastic effort for more than ten years, and has gathered much of his material and written out the larger part of the text in various European libraries. His special fitness in one line, at least, is seen in the fact that he himself handles the cuneiform originals, and can test the translations and interpretation of these as presented in the works of other scholars. Another mark of fitness for the task, perfectly evident to one who reads the volumes from cover to cover, is his ability to write in a vigorous, popular style, and to express himself clearly and forcibly. His style, while